

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUBUMBASHI 0661

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: MOPS,PINS,CG
SUBJECT: LUNDA PARLIAMENTARIAN MBUNDJI ON EVENTS IN SHABA

1.SUMMARY: COMMISSAIRE DE PEUPLE, MBUNDJI MULOL FROM THE ZONE OF KAPANGA, TRADITIONAL HOME OF THE LUNDA TRIBE, VISITED CONSULATE ON JUNE 2. ALTHOUGH MBUNDJI REPRESENTS KAPANGA HE HAS RESIDED FOR MANY YEARS IN KOLWEZI WHERE HE OWNS A STORE.HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN WERE IN KOLWEZI AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK. IN ALL PREVIOUS MEETINGS MBUNDJI HAS AVOIDED ANY MENTION OF CRITICISM OF THE MOBUTU GOVERNMENT. MBUNDJI DISCUSSED POSSIBLE COLLABORATION BETWEEN FAZ AND FLNC AT KOLWEZI, LOCAL VIEWS ON FOREIGN INTERVENTION THE FLNC LEADERSHIP, RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE MOBUTU GOVERNMENT AND THE LUANDAS,THE IMPACT OF TRIBAL MATTERS ON RELATIONS WITH ZAMBIA, AND THE LIKELIHOOD OF GENOCIDE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE LUNDA. END SUMMARY

2. MBUNDJI BEGAN WITH AN INTERESTING STORY OF EVENTS IN KOLWEZI THE EVENING OF THE MAY 13 ATTACK WHICH HE THOUGHT INDICATED FAZ COLLUSION WITH THE INVADERS. THE STORY ORIGINATES WITH ZONE COMMISSAIRE MOTELO OF THE "CITE" MANIKA WHICH IS JUST SOUTHEAST OF THE CENTRAL RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF KOLWEZI. MOTELO
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SAW FIVE SOLDIERS DRESSED IN UNFAMILIAR UNIFORMS ENGAGED IN IDENTITY CHECK ACTIVITIES IN MANIKA AT 2000 LOCAL TIME OF MAY 12. HE APPROACHED THEM IDENTIFIED HIMSELF, AND DEMANDED TO SEE THEIR AUTHORIZATION. THEY PRESENTED ORDERS SIGNED BY A CAPTAIN KABUYA, WHO WAS INDEED AN OFFICER ASSIGNED TO THE GENDARMERIE UNIT BASED IN KOLWEZI. HOWEVER THE

SOLDIERS UNUSUAL UNIFORMS WHICH FEATURES A SHOULDER PATCH DEPICTING THE BODY OF A TIGER PIQUED HIS CURIOSITY. WHEN HE AIRD HIS DOUBTS ABOUT THE VALIDITY OF THE SOLDERS ORDERS, HE WAS ARRESTED. HE WAS HELD UNTIL 2200, THE THE CONTROL POINT WAS VISITED BY TWO UN IDENTIFIED FAZ OFFICERS IN A JEEP. WHEN HE WAS IDENTIFIED FAZ OFFICERS ORDERS HIS RELEASE. MOTELO WENT IMMEDIATELY TO A TELEPHONE AND CALLED THE SUB-REGIONAL COMMISSONER WHO SAID HE HE WOULD CHECK WITH FAZ HQ. AT MIDNIGHT MOTELO SAW MORE SOLDIERS WITH TIGER PATCH UNIFORMS AND HE AGAIN CALLED THE SUB REGIONAL COMMISSIONER WHO SAID THAT HE WAS STILL CHECKING. AT 0245 MAY 13 MOTELO HEARD THE FIRST SHOTS BEING FIRED IN ZONE MANIKA. HE IMMEDIATELY CALLED ALL FAZ COMMAND POSTS IN THE AREA, INCLUDING THE MILITARY REGION HQ OF GENERAL DIKUTA, BUT THERE WAS NO RESPONSE. AT 0600, THE TIGER BRIGADE MOVED IN FORCE THROUGH ZONE MANIKA AND THERE WAS NO FAZ RESISTENC. BY 0800 ALL FIRING IN MANIKA HAD CEASED, ALTHOUGH FIRING IN THE EUROPEAN RESIDENTIAL AREA COULD BE HEARD.

3. MOTELO BELIEVES THAT FAZ COLUSION ALLOWED THE TIGER BRIGADE SOLDIERS TO ASSEMBLE IN MANIKA THE EVE OF MAY 13 AND AND ORDERED A WITHDRAWL OF FAZ SOLDIERS THERE BEFORE THE ACTUAL ATTACK.

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4. MJUMDI WAS ASKED HOW THE LUNDAS VIEWED THE INTERVENTION AT KOLWEZI BY FRENCH AND BELGIAN PARATROOPS. OST LUNDAS THOUGHT THE INTERVENTION WAS A BAD IDEA AND DOUBTED IF ANY EXPATRIATES WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED IF THE FLNC HAD NOT EXPECTED SUCH AN OPERATION. MANY LUNDAS THOUGHT THAT IF THE REBELS HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO HOLD KOLWEZI, THEN MOBUTU WOULD HAVE BEEN FORCED TO NEGOTIATED AND PERHAPS REFORM WOULD HAVE COME TO SHABA. INDISCRIMATE KILLINGS BY THE LEGIONNAIRES HAD ALSO CREATED A BAD REACTION AGAINST THE INTERVENTION.

5. MBUNJI HIMSELF HAD LITTLE USE FOR THE FLNC THEIR LEADER GENERAL MBUMBA WAS NOT WELL RESPECTED. MBUMBA IS HALF-LUNDA FROM AN UNTITLED KAPANGA FAMILY A FORMER CHAUFFEUR HE WAS SENT TO FRENCH FOR POLICE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LUBUMBASHI 00661

TRAINING WHICH HE FAILED. LATER HE WAS CIVILIAN CHIEF OF SECURITY FOR KOLWEZI. THE FLNC'S REAL SENTIMENTS WERE FORMED DURING THE KATANGAN SECESSION AND WERE GENERALLY THAT SHABANS SHOULD HAVE A BETTER DEAL THEN ZAIRE WAS GIVING THEM. WHILE THEY ARE FOR THE DOWN FALL OF MOBUTU, THEY HAVE NO REAL PLANS FOR ZAIRE AFTER THE OVERTHROW. MBUNDJI THOUGHT THAT MOBUTU'S BIG MISTAKE IN DEALING WITH THE FLNC WAS THE SELECTION OF THE TSHOMBE BROTHERS, DANIEL AND THOMAS, AS NEGOTIATORS IN 1975. THE TSHOMBES WERE TOO CLOSE TO THE REBELS BY VIRTUE OF FAMILY CONNECTIONS TO TRULY REPRESENT MOBUTU'S VIEWS TO THEM. THE PRESIDENT ALSO TENDED TO DISREGARD THE TSHOMBES REPORTS BECAUSE OF THEIR SECESSIONIST BACKGROUND.

6. WHEN THE POSSIBILITY OF A PUBLIC RECONCILIATION BETWEEN MOBUTU AND THE MWANT YAV (DANIEL TSHOMBE) WAS SUGGESTED, MBUNDJI REPLIED THAT SUCH AN ACT MIGHT BE OF MARGINAL BENEFIT. BUT THAT THE PRESENT MWANT YAV WAS NOT THE MOST RESPECTED PERSON TO OCCUPY THAT POSITION IN RECENT YEARS. TSHOMBE HAD A DRINKING PROBLEM, AND HAD QUARRELLED WITH THE AMERICAN METHODIST MISSIONAIRES WHO HAD DONE MUCH FOR THE LUNDAS. MBUNDJI HAD BEEN AGAINST THE NOMINATION OF TSHOMBE
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AS MWANT YAV FROM THE BEGINNING BECAUSE HE FELT THAT THE TSHOMBE NAME, WITH ITS SECESSIONIST OVERINTES WOULD BRING TROUBLE TO THE LUNDAS.

7. THE SUBJECT OF NGUZU KARL I BOND WAS ALSO RAISED MBUNDJI THOUGHT HIGHLY OF NGUZU AND CONSIDERED HIS

LOYALTY AND ABILITY TO BE A GREAT POTENTIAL ASSET TO MOBUTU. HOWEVER HIS LOYALTY PURSUIT OF SELF INTEREST AND PUBLIC DOWNFALL HAD DAMAGED HIS CREDIBILITY WITH THE LUNDAS.

8. MJUMDJJI STOPPED HOSRT OF RECOMMENDING THE REPLACEMENT OF MOBUTU BUT THOUGHT THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF A PRIME MINISTER WITH THE POWER TO SET GOVERNMENT POLICIES WOULD BE OF GREAT BENEFIT. MBUNDJI HAD NOT ONE IN PARTICULAR IN MIND FOR THE OFFICE.

9. IN DISCUSSING ZAIRE-ZAMBIA RELATIONS MBUNDJI WAS ASKED IF REBEL FORCES HAD USED TRIBAL CONNECTIONS TO GAIN INFLUENCE WITH THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT. HE ADMITTED THAT THE FLNC DID HAVE INFLUENTIAL CONTACTS IN ZAMBIA WHO HAD SOME LEVERAGE ON THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA. MORE IMPORTANT WAS THE PRO-ANGOLA ANTI-ZAIRE SLANT OF SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF KAUNDAS GOVERNMENT HE DISCOUNTED DIRECT TRIBAL INFLUENCE AND SAID THAT THE FEELING OF FEALTY TO THE LUNDA ON THE PART OF THE BEMBA, ZAMBIAS DOMINANT TRIBE, HAD DIMINISHED SINCE INDEPENDENCE.

10. MBUNDJIS GREATEST WORRY WAS A GENOCIDE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE LUNDA WHICH HE THOUGHT WAS BEING PLANNED BY THE FAZ. GENERAL SINGA'S PERSONAL AIDE, COLONEL BOSANGO HAD WARNED MBUNDJI OF THIS POSSIBILITY.
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ANTI-LUNDA FEELING AMONG THE FAZ WAS GREAT. ALREADY MANY LUNDA HAD BEEN WOUNDED AND KILLED IN UNAUTHORIZED NIGHT TIME SEARCH OPERATIONS MOUNTED IN LUBUMBASHI'S KENY "CITE" WHERE MANY LUNDAS RESIDE. THE DECLARATION OF A FREE-FIRE ZONE NEAR THE ZAMBIAN AND ANGOLAN BORDER WAS HAVING A DISASTEROUS EFFECT ON THE POPULATION THERE. THERE WAS A RUMOR THAT ALL LUNDAS WERE TO BE APPREHENDED AND PLACED IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS BEGINNING JUNE 10. MBUNDJI WAS AFRAID OF BLOODY CIVIL DISTURBANCES CAUSED BY SUCH RUMORS. HE SAID HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO DISCUSS THESE PROBLEMS WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU IF HE COULD GAIN AN AUDIENCE.

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